



PEEL COMMON *Community Junior School*

The Drive ♦ Gosport ♦ Hampshire ♦ PO13 0QD
 Telephone (01329) 281206 ♦ Fax (01329) 230811
 Website ♦ www.peelcommonjuniorschool.co.uk

Headteacher : Mr Andy Clarke
Deputy Headteacher : Mr Warren Beadell
Administrative Officer : Mrs Tracy Barker

PCJ Current Attendance 95.90% (94.53% last year)
 Sessions missed this academic year **2381**
432 late arrivals (679 last year)
7150 hours of learning missed so far

3rd May 2019

Dear Parents

Last week I waxed lyrical about the nature of the ‘triangle’ and this week I turning my attention to the ‘circle’ or more precisely, the ‘hula hoop’! On the 6th April, at Fareham College, the National Hula-Hoop Championship took place, the first of its kind in the UK. I am very proud to say that two of our year 3 pupils, took part in this inaugural event and did brilliantly. I was very pleased to find out about this, especially as we introduced Hula-Hooping as one of our chosen after-school club activities. Our current numbers for this club are low and the club itself is in danger of being stopped due to lack of take up. If your child would like to take part in this fun, exciting and growing sport, then please let the school office know – the club runs after school on Tuesdays.



In our PRIDE assembly on Monday, I spoke to the children about the importance of resilience, especially when things/learning gets tough and seemingly impossible. I shared with them the story of Sarah, who recently won a national handwriting competition in the United States despite being born with no hands. Its stories like this that puts our challenges into perspective and also gives us role models to emulate; if Sarah can do it then so can we!

It was lovely following that, to give out so many handwriting certificates. I am very proud of our children’s efforts in this area. We have some beautiful hand writers in school but more importantly, we have improving hand writers. We have children who are determined to get better, regardless of how hard they find it. I found myself working with Jake this week, and it is fair to say, like some of us, he finds spelling and handwriting probably more challenging than most. He worked really hard with me and he could see at the end, the improvements he had made. Needless to say, he felt very proud of himself, as I was of him. One of the strategies we use at school to encourage accurate spelling and spellers is the Have a Go sheets. They look a bit like this ...

Have a Go			
Attempt 1	Attempt 2	Attempt 3	Teacher Column

The child independently decides which words they think they have misspelt. They then 'have a go'! It allows a child to take a chance on spelling a word wrong before they then commit to their written work.

When we learnt spelling at school, we were told it was either right or wrong. Now of course, that is still the case, especially for our year 6's who will be tested on their spelling in a couple of weeks time. One of the most frustrating aspects of those of us who find spelling difficult is that a 'miss is as good as a mile', meaning that even if you're almost right, you're wrong. One way we work with children to overcome this black and white, right or wrong way of thinking is this ...

A child will make an attempt at a spelling, often with the adult intoning the word so they can hear the sounds of the word correctly. For the word 'castle' it might go something like this ...

k a s l e c a s l e c a s t l e

In the first attempt the adult would place a cross above the 'k', a tick above the 'a', the 's', the 'l' and the 'e', and a '-' between the 's' and the 'l' to show that a letter has been missed. The child then knows where they've been successful and where they need to make a change and they can then have another go.

I hope this is helpful for you in supporting your child with their spelling in a similar way to the way in which we support them at school.

Enjoy the long weekend and we will see you all on Tuesday.

Upcoming Residential Trips

For parents of Year 3 children and Year 5 children, please let us know as soon as possible if your child will be attending the residential trips during the next academic year.

Dates for your diary

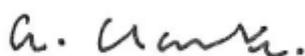
Monday 6th May
Monday 13th May
Friday 24th May
Friday 24th May

Bank Holiday
Start of SATS Week
PCJ Fun Mudder
Last Day of Term

Monday 3rd June
Friday 7th June
Friday 14th June
Friday 5th July
Monday 8th July
Tuesday 23rd July

Back to School 8.45am
Sports Day
Reserve Sports Day
INSET Day
INSET Day
Last Day of Term

Yours sincerely



Mr A Clarke
Headteacher

